

**GODMANCHESTER**  
**Urban District Council.**

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**REPORT**

UPON THE SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

**Borough of Godmanchester**

FOR THE YEAR 1911,

BY

**HERBERT LUCAS, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.,**

**Medical Officer of Health.**

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TO THE  
GODMANCHESTER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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GENTLEMEN,

Godmanchester is a Borough situate on the south side of the river Ouse, with an area of 4,659 acres. The Borough proper is located on the banks of the river, with many straggling streets and lanes, and spreading over a considerable acreage, flanked on the East and West by extensive commons, which are at times flooded.

The rising ground on the southern side of the Borough is dotted with farm-houses and homesteads. The soil of the Borough proper is gravel, and that of the higher ground Oxford Clay.

It is a purely agricultural district. A Flour Mill is the only manufactory of any size in the Borough.

House accommodation for the labouring classes is of a mixed character. The old thatched cottages are gradually being re-placed by more modern dwelling-houses, and the house accommodation is generally improving. There is plenty of open space about the houses, the cleanliness of the surroundings in some places is not of a high class, the yards being imperfectly paved and gravelled. The gravelling of the yards shows some improvement.

Notices have been served to close one house and a Systematic Inspection has been made of houses in which there are several persons with a view to enquire into the question of overcrowding. A Committee has been appointed to deal with this matter.

There is a shortage of houses for the accommodation of the working classes.

At the present time there are no Bye-laws compelling people to submit plans to your Surveyor before building new dwelling-houses.

### **Water Supply.**

Water is obtained from shallow wells sunk in the gravel of the Ouse valley ; this is liable to pollution: Notices have been posted on all the pumps advising the inhabitants to boil their water before using it for drinking purposes.

### **Milk Supply.**

The milk supplied is wholesome, the Dairies and Cow-sheds are generally in good condition, and there are many acres of commons and grazing land which is conducive to the healthiness of the cows. I can hear of no cases of Tuberculosis amongst the Cows in the District.

### **Food Supply.**

No samples of Food were sent for analysis during the year.

No Carcases were condemned for Tuberculosis.

### **Sewers and Sewerage.**

There is a complete system of sewerage and drainage. The sewers discharge into two brooks which coalesce at a distance of from 400 to 500 yards, and form one stream which empties itself into the Hemingford head of the river Ouse, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles distant.

Very little fœcal matter passes through the sewers as the pail system is almost universally adopted.

The sewers are well flushed with water from the river from the Godmanchester head, and by means of water pumped into a tank at the upper end of the system by a ram at the old water mill, which supplies the motive power. A new flushing tank has been placed at the head of the West Street sewer which has been relaid with Sanitary pipes.

There are 33 houses with Water Closets, in the others the pail system is adopted and the excrement is carted out of the Borough in your own carts and by your own men, and disposed of in a field far removed from any possible risk of well pollution. House refuse is also removed in the same way and placed in the same field, except when occupiers choose to cart it to their own fields or allotments outside the Borough proper. The removal of house refuse is much facilitated by the use of sanitary dustbins which are being generally adopted. The refuse is removed once a week or oftener if required.

**One registered Lodging House, the Slaughter Houses, Bakehouses (all above ground), Dairies, Cowsheds, Milk-Shops and Factories** (of which only one now exists, a Flour Mill) are regularly visited by the inspector.

### **Schools.**

The Schools are in good sanitary condition and water is supplied to the children from wells adjacent.

Medical Inspection of School Children is carried out by the County Medical Officer of Health.

### **Abatement of Nuisances.**

Your Surveyor gives notice as to the abatement of nuisances and if not attended to reports to your Authority.



### **Isolation Hospital.**

No Isolation Hospital has been provided. I hope your Authority may see your way to make arrangements for the treatment of Infectious Diseases at the Huntingdon Isolation Hospital. Two Third Class Carriages have been secured for the reception of cases of Small Pox, and placed in a very suitable situation.

### **Disinfection.**

Disinfection is carried out by your Inspector principally by means of the Formic Aldehyde Lamp.

### **Inspections.**

In December last I made a systematic Inspection of the whole district, accompanied by your Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances. I have made other Inspections when diseases or nuisances existed to which my attention had been called. Your Inspector has ordered all insanitary conditions existing to be remedied, and has seen that his instructions are carried out.

### **Births and Deaths.**

During the year the births of 50 children have been registered, 24 males and 26 females. An average of 23·4 per 1000 persons living.

The deaths of 22 persons residing in the Borough, and of 4 persons belonging to the district 3 in the County Hospital, and one in the Children's Hospital, Great Ormond Street, make a total of 26, an average of 12·1 per 1000 persons living. Of these deaths 13 were over 70 years of age, of these 4 were over 80 and one over 90.

### **Infantile Mortality.**

Three children died under one year of age. The Notification of Birth Acts is not in force.

### **Prevalence of Infectious Disease.**

Four cases of Infectious Disease have been notified during the year, two of Diphtheria, one of Scarlet Fever and one of Erysipelas.

### **Scarlet Fever.**

One case of Scarlet Fever occurred in an adult, and its source could not be ascertained, it was moved to an Isolation Hospital outside the District.

### **Diphtheria.**

Two cases of Diphtheria were notified in children, both of which proved fatal, no definite cause could be ascertained.

### **Small Pox and Vaccination.**

No case of Small Pox was notified. Vaccination has become almost a dead letter, and I dread the consequences should a case of Small Pox be imported into the District. I should like to see Re-Vaccination made compulsory.

### **Diseases of Respiratory Organs.**

Five deaths from diseases of Respiratory Organs were registered; Two of Bronchitis in children, making an average of 2·2 per 1000 persons living.

### **Phthisis.**

Two deaths from Phthisis or other tubercular diseases occurred, average rate ·93 per 1000 persons living. Phthisis is now added to the list of compulsory Notifiable Diseases.

### **Cancer.**

One death from Cancer was registered during the year, average death rate of .46 per 1000 persons living.

### **Infantile Diarrhœa.**

Infantile Diarrhœa was very slightly prevalent during the hot season and no fatal cases occurred.

### **Mortuary.**

A public Mortuary exists.

I append Table 1, Vital Statistics of the whole District and previous years.

Table 2 of Infectious Diseases notified during the year.

Table 3, Causes of, and ages at death during the year.

Table 4, Infantile Mortality during the year.

The Factory and Workshops Report.

And the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your faithful Servant,

HERBERT LUCAS,

*Medical Officer of Health,  
Godmanchester Urban District Council.*

HUNTINGDON,

. February, 12th, 1912.



TABLE 1.—GODMANCHESTER URBAN DISTRICT.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Un-corrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.*	of Non-Residents registered in the District	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 year of Age.		At all Ages	
			Number	Rate *					Number	Rate per 1000 Net Births.	Number.	Rate.*
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11	12.	13.
1906	2017		52	25.7	37	18.3		10	10	122.3	47	23.3
1907	2017		51	25.2	32	15.8		4	2	39.2	36	17.8
1908	2017		49	24.2	21	10.6		5	3	55.5	26	12.3
1909	2017		42	20.8	28	13.3		5	3	71.4	33	16.3
1910	2017		49	24.3	24	11.0		5	5	89.2	29	14.3
1911	2135	50	50	23.4	25	11.7	3	4	3	60.0	26	12.1

\* Rates calculated per 1000 of estimated Population.

Area of District in Acres  
(exclusive of area  
covered by water).

4659  
Total population at all ages ...  
Number of Inhabited houses...  
Average number of persons per house

2135  
...  
525  
4.06

At Census of 1911.

TABLE II.—Godmanchester Urban District.

*Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1911.*

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN ALL DISTRICTS.						Total Cases removed to Hos- pital.
	At Ages †—Years.						
	At all Ages.	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	45 to 65	
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup	2			2			
Erysipelas ... ..	1					1	
Scarlet Fever ... ..	1				1		1
TOTAL ... ..	4			2	1	1	1

NO ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

**TABLE III.—Godmanchester Urban District.**

*Causes of, and Ages at, Deaths during the Year, 1911.*

CAUSE OF DEATHS.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of "residents" whether occurring in or beyond the district.								
	All Ages.	Under 1 Year	1 and under 2.	2 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and up- wards.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
All causes :									
Certified ...	26	3	1	1	3	2		3	13
Uncertified ...									
Diphtheria and Croup...	2			1	1				
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ...	1					1			
Tuberculous Meningitis	1				1				
Cancer, malignant disease ...	1								1
Bronchitis ...	4	1	1						2
Pneumonia (all other forms) ...	1								1
Nephritis and Bright's Disease ...	1							1	
Congenital Debility and Malformation, includ- ing Premature Birth	1	1							
Violent Deaths, exclud- ing Suicide ...	2				1			1	
Other Defined Diseases	12	1				1		1	9
	26	3	1	1	3	2		3	13



**Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1910,  
for the Urban District of Godmanchester.**

on the administration of the factory and Workshop Act, 1931,  
in connection with

**Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces, & Homework.**

1.—INSPECTIONS.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors  
of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories ... .. (including Factory Laundries)	4	Nil.	Nil.
Workshops ... .. (including Workshops Laundries)	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Workplaces ... ..		Nil.	Nil.
Homeworkers' Premises ...	Nil.		
Total ... ..	4	—	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			
	Found.	Remedied.	Referee to H.M. Inspector	Number of Prosecutions.
	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

3. Home work.—Nil.

4. Registered Workshops & Bakehouses.—5.

5. Other Matters.—Nil.



**Ten Years Fatal Cases of:**

Year.	Cancer.	Phthisis and Tubercular Disease.
1902	4	4
1903	2	4
1904	3	5
1905	4	4
1906	2	4
1907	3	2
1908	0	0
1909	3	2
1910	2	1
1911	1	2
	24	28

**GODMANCHESTER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

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**Report of Inspector of Nuisances, 1911.**

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During the year 1911, the drains of 37 houses have been repaired.

The yards of 31 houses have been gravelled.

One pigstye has been drained.

Three wells have been repaired and cleansed.

One sample of water has been analysed and reported unfit for drinking.

Six houses have been disinfected after illness.

750 yards of Public Sewers have been relaid with Stoneware pipes jointed in cement, and all the private drains in two streets have been cleansed and connected to the Sewers.

One flushing tank to hold 1000 gallons has been constructed at the head of West Street Sewer and an automatic valve fitted to the same.

Yours obediently,

C. MAYFIELD.

